GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7512
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2000
PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES
P.D. ELANGOVAN;UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to protect and save endangered animal species in the country;

(b) the number of projects implemented, amount allocated and the details of target and achievements made for the protection of the endangered animals so far;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to approach WWF or any other foreign sources to implement these projects to save fast vanishing animal species; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT &FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) The Government of India has taken following steps to protect and save endangered animal species in the country :

- Providing legal protection against hunting and commercial exploitation of wild animals under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- Setting up of Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment and Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife. Similar Committees have been established and State level and District level in various States.

- Authorised Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to apprehend offenders and launch prosecution in wildlife offences.

- Providing assistance to State Government for strengthening the infrastructure through involvement of Armed Squadsand Strike Forces drawn out of paramilitary forces and State Armed constabulary.

- Periodic meetings with State Government for effective monitoring of protection measures undertaken.

- Strengthening the infrastructure under the Central Government and to ensure its presence in all sensitive areas.

(b) The number of projects implemented and amount allocated is given at Annexure-I. The projects are implemented in the protected areas of the country with the objective of conserving the precious bio-diversity and in particular the endangered species of the country. As a consequence of the implementation of these projects, the population of rare and endangered animals have increased considerably. The achievements in respect of rare and endangered animals is given below :

- The population of tiger in India has increased from 1827 in 1969 to 3810 in 1997.

- The population of Rhinoceros has increased from 600 in 1966 to 1730 in 1997.

- The population of elephants has increased from 18960 (approx.) in 1985 to 29450 (approx.) in 1998.

- The population of Asiatic Lion in India has increased from 177 in 1968 to 304 in 1995.

(c)&(d) The Government of India has no immediate future plan to approach WWF or any other foreign sources to implement the project for the protection of endangered wild animal species.

ANNEXURE -I

ANNEXURE IN RESPECT OF PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTRARRED QUESTION NO. 7512 FOR 15.5.2000 REGARDING PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES

Number of Projects and Amount Allocated

Sl.No	Name of the Project/Scheme	Amount allocated (Rs. in crore)		
		7th Plan	8th Plan	9th Plan
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	18.85	49.50	85.00
2.	Eco development in and around protected areas	-	29.96	175.00
3.	Project Elephant	-	23.00	40.00
4.	Project Tiger	14.75	40.00	75.00
5.	Beneficiary Oriented Scheme for Tribal Dev.	-	3.50	12.00